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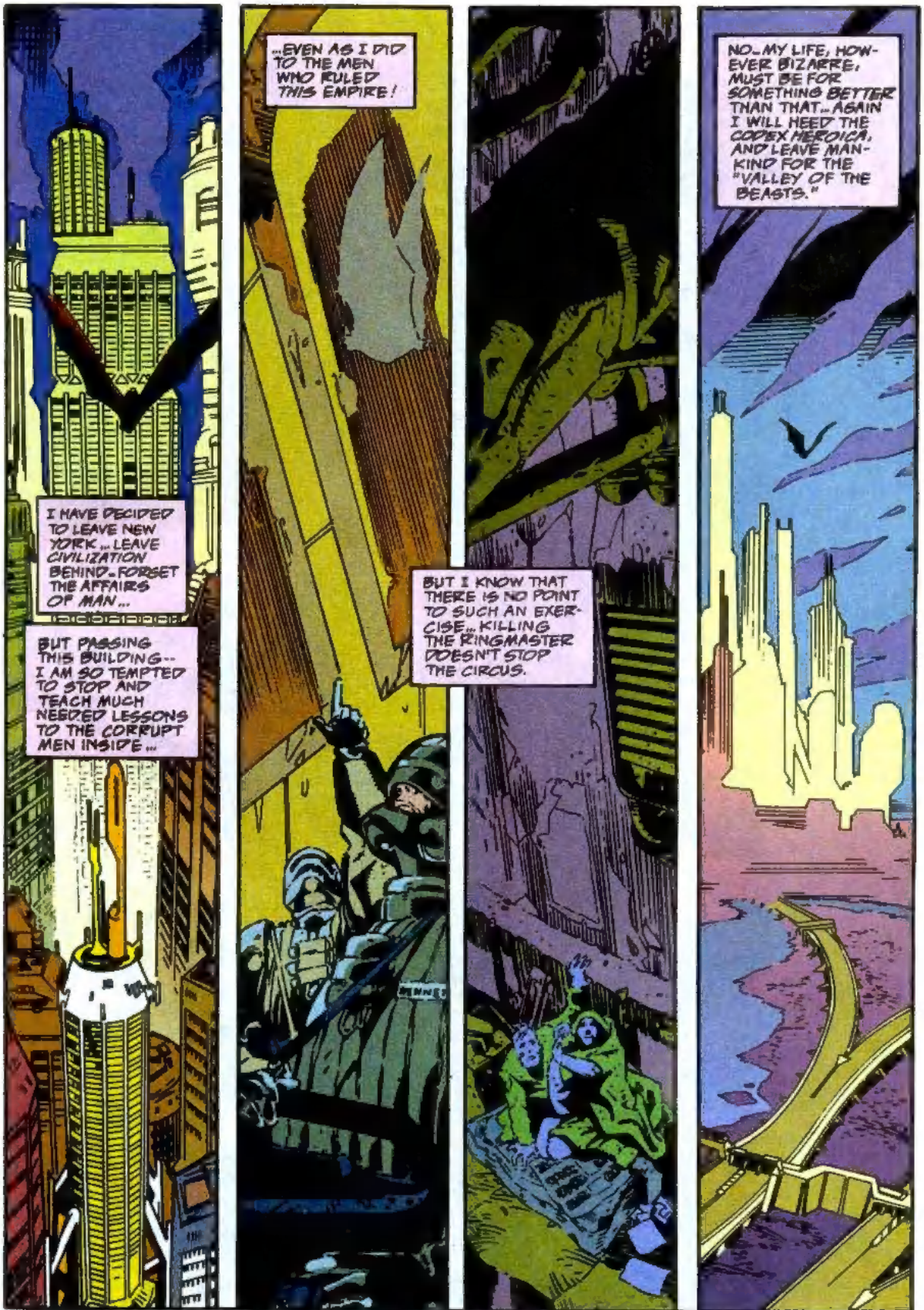
RAGE 2099
YOU'RE ALL AS GOOD AS DEAD TO ME!!!
ALL THAT MATTERS NOW--
IS THE OPEN ROAD!
DIRECT EDITION


I HAVE DECIDED TO LEAVE NEW YORK... LEAVE CIVILIZATION BEHIND.. FORGET THE AFFAIRS OF MAN...
BUT PASSING THIS BUILDING-- I AM SO TEMPTED TO STOP AND TEACH MUCH NEEDED LESSONS TO THE CORRUPT MEN INSIDE...
...EVEN AS I DID TO THE MEN WHO RULED THIS EMPIRE!
BUT I KNOW THAT THERE IS NO POINT TO SUCH AN EXERCISE... KILLING THE RINGMASTER DOESN'T STOP THE CIRCUS.
NO.. MY LIFE, HOWEVER BIZARRE, MUST BE FOR SOMETHING BETTER THAN THAT... AGAIN I WILL HEED THE CODEX HEROICA, AND LEAVE MANKIND FOR THE "VALLEY OF THE BEASTS."

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PLEASE, WE HAVE AN ENTRY PERMIT... MY FATHER HAS IT -- HE WORKS FOR YOUR COMPANY... HE USES IT TO GO TO WORK...
HE HASN'T COME HOME... SOMETHING IS WRONG... YOU MUST LET ME PASS... I MUST FIND HIM!
NO PERMIT-- NO ENTRY! GET OUT OF HERE, DECRED!
I HAVE TO FIND HIM! PLEASE LET ME PASS...!
YOU DON'T HEAR TOO WELL, DO YOU? LET ME PUT IT LIKE THIS...
GO ON, MAZ... DO IT! I'LL SAY SHE HAD A GUN IN MY REPORT...
"RAVAGE... WHY STOP? I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO GET AS FAR FROM THE CITY AS POSSIBLE...?"
"WE CAN'T JUST FLY ON OVER THEM... WE MUST DO SOMETHING...!"
YOU POINT YOUR WEAPON IN THE WRONG DIRECTION, LITTLE MAN...
YOU THINK YOU'RE THE FIRST DECRED LOSER TO TRY THAT LITTLE TRICK...?
OH, NO! OH... FOR SHOCK'S SAKE, THIS CAN'T BE REAL!
SHOOT, YOU FOOL! SHOOT!

MAKE IT SWIFT, RAVAGE... I AM EAGER TO FLY ON!
HEY, SCUM! PICK ON SOMEONE MY SIZE!
RAVAGE CREATED BY STAN LEE AND PAUL RYAN.
BLIND JUSTICE
PAT MILLS & TONY SKINNER WRITERS
JOE BENNETT PENCILER
GREG ADAMS INKER
PHIL FELIX -- LETTERER
ROBBIE BUSCH -- COLORIST
MATT MORRA EDITOR
JOEY CAVALIERI GROUP EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO CHIEF

Scanned by Tato

SWAK!
LOSE THE GUN, BOZO... OR I MIGHT GET REALLY ANGRY!
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO PUT IN THE REPORT WHEN I'VE MANGLED YOU?
LOOK... WHOEVER YOU ARE--THINK OF THE CONSEQUENCES IF YOU HURT ME...!
FOR INSTANCE--I MIGHT BLOW A HOLE IN THE LADY'S HEAD...! HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT, FUR-FACE?
CH-THUNK!
OH, YEAH? WELL HOW ABOUT IF I--
AGHH!
IF I WERE YOU I'D TURN AROUND AND TAKE MY CHANCES ALONE... THE CITY HOLDS ONLY MISERY FOR THOSE IN IT.
THANKS FOR AIDING ME, BUT...
I KNOW MY OWN BUSINESS... I GO TO NEW YORK TO SUPPORT MY CHILDREN... MY... MY HUSBAND WAS KILLED LAST MONTH BY "TECH-RAIDERS"!
IF YOU KILL HER I WILL RIP YOU INTO RIBBONS OF FLESH... SLOWLY!
YOU THINK I SURVIVE OUT HERE BY HELPLESSLY WAITING FOR VIOLENT DEATH...?

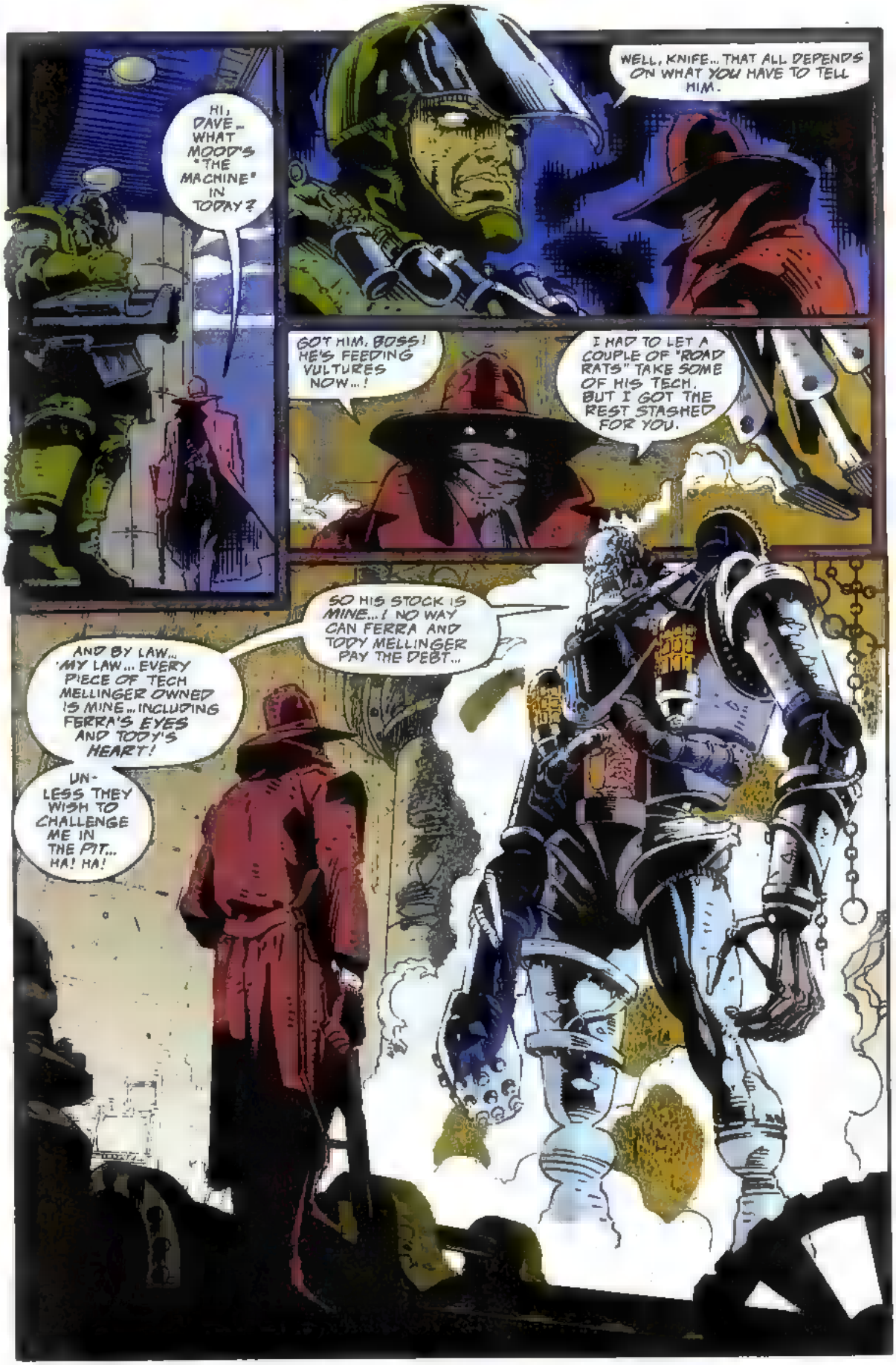
HERE HE COMES--
--LOOKS LIKE HE'S HIRED A COUPLE OF ROAD RATS, FOR PROTECTION.
SEARCH
SHOOT THE HORSES AND MELLINGER... WE'LL TRY TO DO A DEAL WITH THE RATS...
MACHINE HEAD SAID HE DON'T WANT NO TROUBLE WITH THEM CRAZIES!
BANDITS! C'MON, YOU RATS.. LET'S SEE IF YOU'RE AS GOOD AS THEY SAY YOU ARE...
YOU SURE COST ME ENOUGH...!

HOODED MEN, RAT FIVE! D'YOU RECKON WE KNOW 'EM?
MAYBE WE SHOULD REMOVE THEIR HOODS, RAT TWELVE--AFTER WE'VE KILLED 'EM, OF COURSE!
AAAGH!
PULL BACK! PULL BACK, YOU FOOLS!
HAH! YOU GOT ONE! THAT'S MADE THEM THINK!
YO, ROAD RATS! I WANNA MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU!
WHAT KIND OF DEAL? YOU MESS WITH US--YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH ALL THE ROAD RATS!
WHAT...? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING TO HIM FOR...? KILL THEM! IT'S WHAT I PAID YOU TO DO!

HIS HORSES ARE DOWN... I PRESUME HE PAID FER PROTECTION NOT TRANSPORTATION?
I'LL GIVE YOU THREE HUNDRED FARM CREDITS... AND LET YOU TAKE THE PICK OF HIS CARGO--IF YOU BACK OFF.
AGREED!
YOU TRAITOROUS... AGH!
KNIFE! KNIFE AMBROSE! BUT YOU WORK FOR MACHINE HEAD! THIS CARGO WAS GOING TO PAY MY DEBT TO HIM!
C'MON, YOU LIZARD DUNG! FIGHT ME LIKE MEN!
YOU NEVER WAS TOO SMART, MEL... HE DON'T WANT WHAT YOU OWE HIM... HE WANTS EVERYTHING YOU GOT!
BE GLAD TO, MEL... TROUBLE IS-- I AIN'T EXACTLY WHAT YOU'D CALL A MAN... HA! HA!
IT'S IN THE CONTRACT, MEL... YOU FAIL TO PAY BY TOMORROW... MACHINE HEAD GETS EVERY-THING YOU OWN!
KA-LAM!
IT LOOKS BAD DOWN THERE... DO YOU WANT ME TO FLY DOWN, RAVAGE?
NO, NO... WE CAN'T GET INVOLVED IN EVERY INJUSTICE WE SEE! AT LEAST NOT UNTIL WE LEARN MORE...
...BY THE WAY--WHAT'S YOUR NAME? I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL YOU.
I'VE NEVER HAD A NAME, RAVAGE... WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD SUIT ME?
HMM. HOW ABOUT OSCAR...? NO, UH... SOMETHING MORE DRAMATIC--WHAT ABOUT FANG-KLAW...? NO, THAT'S CORNY... UH, LET ME SEE NOW...

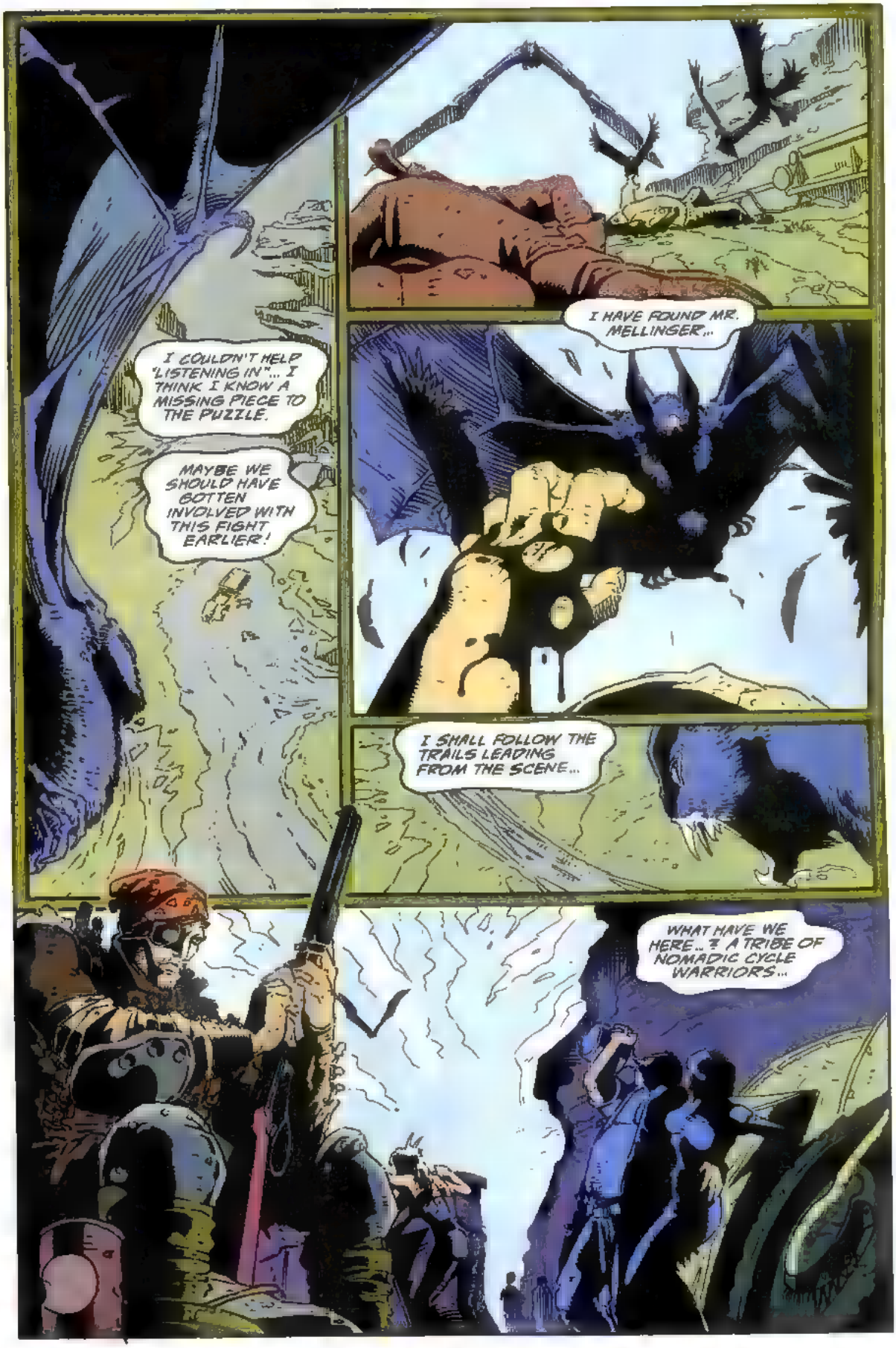
OPEN THE DOOR, MELLINGER!
KRASH!
...MACHINE HEAD KNOWS MY BROTHER IS DUE TO ARRIVE TOMORROW MORNING -- WITH ENOUGH 'TECH TO PAY THE BILL AND BUY OUR FAMILY A SEAT ON THE RULING COUNCIL...!
WE HAVE AN "ARTIFACT POSSESSION" ORDER MADE OUT AGAINST YOUR OLD MAN, LADY!
HOW DARE YOU! WHEN MY HUSBAND COMES HOME HE'LL HAVE YOU DRAGGED BEFORE THE COURT!
"ARTIFACT POSSESSION"...? BUT THAT ONLY COMES INTO FORCE IF A PARTY RENEGES ON A DEBT...
WITH MY HUSBAND ON THE COUNCIL, YOUR SORT WILL FIND THEMSELVES --
OH -- DIDN'T I MENTION...? THERE'S BEEN A TRAGEDY... YOUR OLD MAN'S BEEN AMBUSHED BY TECH-RAIDERS!
HE'S DEAD AND YOU'RE FINISHED... UNLESS YOU WANT TO TRY YOUR LUCK AGAINST MACHINE HEAD IN A 'LEGAL BATTLE!' HA! HA!

I KNOW! BLACK-WING! WHAT DO YOU THINK...?
RAVAGE, PLEASE... NO MORE! I WOULD RATHER HAVE NO NAME THAN SUFFER THIS!
OKAY! LET'S DROP IT FOR A WHILE... CHECK OUT THIS SMALL TOWN...
...SEE HOW THE HUMAN RACE CONDUCTS ITSELF WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE LIKES OF ALCHEMAX!
HALT! STATE YOUR BUSINESS!
YOU CARRY NO TECH TO BARTER WITH... AND BEGGARS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN TECHVILLE... BY ORDER OF MACHINE HEAD! TURN AROUND OR WE FIRE!
BEGGARS?! GRRR! YOU PULL THAT TRIGGER AND I'LL FEED YOU THE GUN--UNDERSTAND?
ER... SOMETIMES WE LET IN PEOPLE WHO HAVE SPECIAL SKILLS.
YOU LOOK FIERCE--BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO? WHAT WAS YOUR LAST JOB?
JOB? WELL, MY LAST POSITION WAS C.E.O. OF A LARGE COMPANY IN NEW YORK...
...DO YOU NEED ANY EXECUTIVES IN TECHVILLE?
NO--BUT IF YOU CAN READ, WE NEED LAWYERS... THE TOWN LAWS ARE WRITTEN IN THE MEETING HALL...
...YOU CAN PUT YOUR FLYING ANIMAL IN THE STABLES... AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T BOTHER THE HORSES!
OF COURSE I CAN READ... I ALSO HAVE A DEGREE IN CORPORATE LAW.
I'LL GIVE THE STABLES A MISS, RAVAGE... I'LL FLY OFF AND GET MYSELF SOME DINNER!

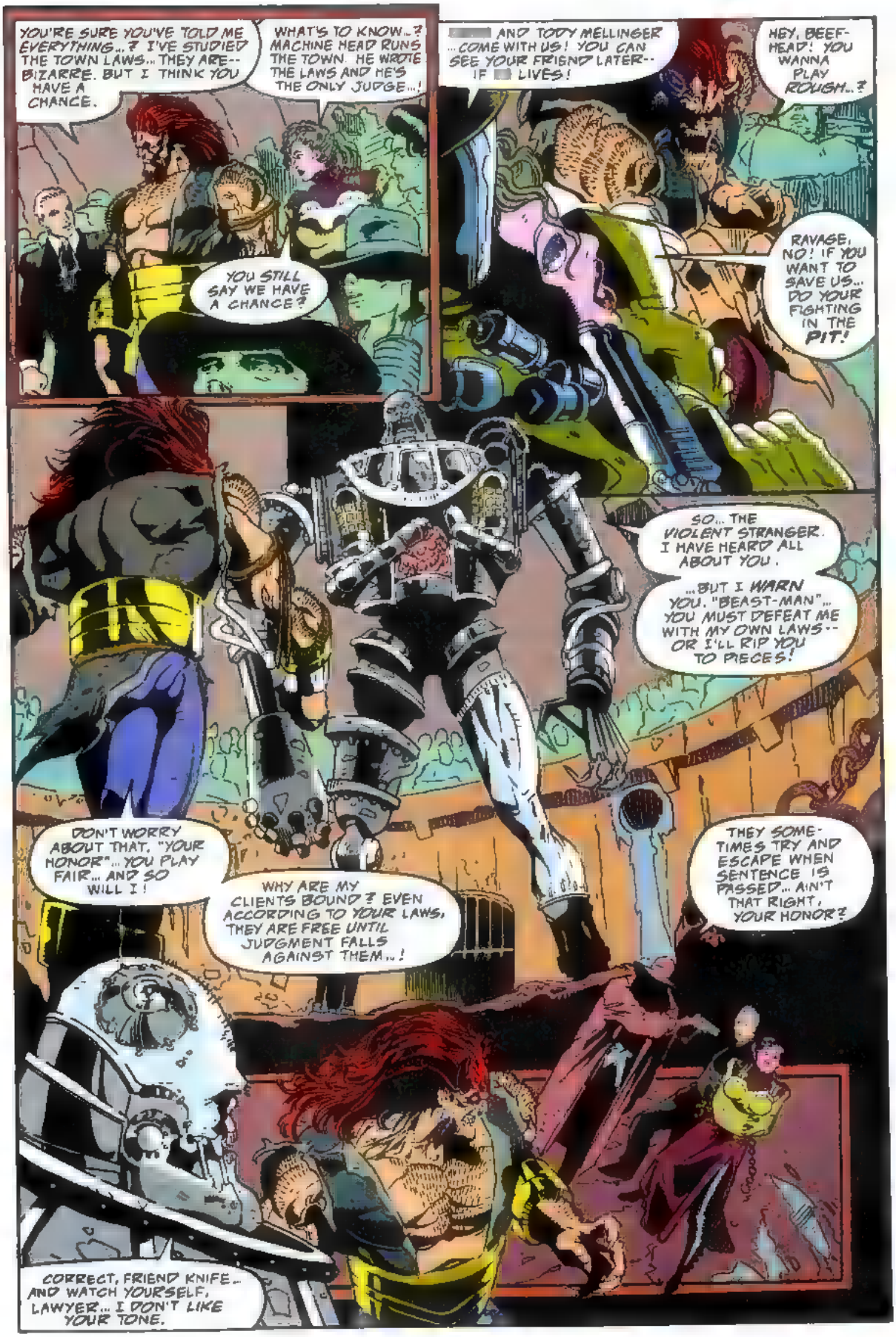

HI, DAVE... WHAT MOOD'S "THE MACHINE" IN TODAY?
WELL, KNIFE... THAT ALL DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU HAVE TO TELL HIM.
GOT HIM, BOSS! HE'S FEEDING VULTURES NOW...!
I HAD TO LET A COUPLE OF "ROAD RATS" TAKE SOME OF HIS TECH, BUT I GOT THE REST STASHED FOR YOU.
SO HIS STOCK IS MINE...! NO WAY CAN FERRA AND TODY MELLINGER PAY THE DEBT...
AND BY LAW... MY LAW... EVERY PIECE OF TECH MELLINGER OWNED IS MINE... INCLUDING FERRA'S EYES AND TODY'S HEART!
UN-LESS THEY WISH TO CHALLENGE ME IN THE PIT... HA! HA!

THIS IS REALLY STUPID... THIS IS NOT AT ALL WHAT I INTENDED TO DO WHEN I LEFT NEW YORK...
LEGAL SERVICES
IT LOOKS LIKE I DON'T NEED TO PUT MY SIGN UP... MY NAME IS FERRA MELLINGER... I'D LIKE TO HIRE YOU.
CHAMPION WANTED
BUT YOU BETTER KNOW, STRANGER... YOU'LL NEED THOSE MUSCLES OF YOURS WHEN YOU DEFEND MY CASE AGAINST MACHINE HEAD, IN "THE PIT."
MY NAME'S RAVAGE... AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT... BUT I'LL BE HAPPY TO DEFEND YOU.
FOR A NEW MAN IN TOWN, YOU JUST MADE A BAD CONNECTION, FURBALL!
WATCH OUT, RAVAGE... THESE MEN ARE DANGEROUS!
SMAK!
GGRRASH! THIS IS MY NORMAL LINE OF WORK! I'M FEELING BETTER ALREADY!

[redacted] MISTAKE, FUR-BALL... BIG MISTAKE! MACHINE HEAD WILL HEAR OF THIS!
STAY OUT OF MY WAY OR I'LL RIP YOUR ARMS OFF...!
FERRA... TELL ME ABOUT THIS "MACHINE HEAD"... I'VE HEARD HIS NAME A FEW TIMES...
COME BACK TO MY HOUSE. I WANT YOU TO MEET MY BROTHER-IN-LAW... WE'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT HIM.
IF YOU'RE GONNA [redacted] OUR CHAMPION, RAVAGE, THERE'S A FEW THINGS YOU GOTTA KNOW-- THE LAW AROUND HERE'S MADE BY MACHINE HEAD..
EVEN SO... THERE IS A COURT, RIGHT? SURELY, EVEN THE LAW-MAKER MUST STICK TO THE LAWS?
HAH! THE COURT IS CALLED "THE PIT"... THE LAWYER-CHAMPION STATES HIS CASE. MACHINE HEAD LISTENS AND THEN SAYS HOW IT'S GONNA BE...
...APPEAL AND SENTENCE ARE THEN IMMEDIATELY CARRIED OUT.
THE CHAMPION APPEALS... MACHINE HEAD SMASHES HIM [redacted] HER TO A PULP... AND THEN HE TURNS ON THE DEFENDANT...!
SAME SYSTEM THEY USE IN NEW YORK... THEY JUST RITUALIZE IT A LITTLE MORE...
OKAY. I'LL [redacted] YOUR CHAMPION... BUT FIRST...
...TELL ME--HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE "VALLEY OF THE BEASTS"?
NEVER HAVE...
...MAYBE OUT IN THE DEEP WILD? WE'RE TECH TRADERS AND THERE'S NO TECH OUT THERE.
"TECH" IS ANY TECHNOLOGICAL ARTIFACT... WE [redacted] IT AS BARTER CURRENCY...
...IT'S WHAT MY BROTHER TRADED IN... HE OWED SOME TO THE TOWN RULER--MACHINE HEAD--HE'S A RUTHLESS CY-BORG... NOT HUMAN AT ALL!
BUT THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TECH, RAVAGE... THE REAL ISSUE IS THE FACT THAT MY BROTHER WAS ABOUT TO BUY OUR FAMILY INTO THE RULING COUNCIL... [redacted] COULD HAVE CHANGED THINGS FOR THE BETTER!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU, RAVAGE... I'M GOING TO CHECK SOMETHING OUT...


I HAVE FOUND MR. MELLINGER...
I COULDN'T HELP "LISTENING IN"... I THINK I KNOW A MISSING PIECE TO THE PUZZLE.
MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH THIS FIGHT EARLIER!
I SHALL FOLLOW THE TRAILS LEADING FROM THE SCENE...
WHAT HAVE WE HERE...? A TRIBE OF NOMADIC CYCLE WARRIORS...

I SAW THESE TWO AS WE FLEW OVER...
I TURNED HALF MY SHARE INTO FARM CREDITS... THE REST I KEEP... THERE'S SATELLITE HOLO-PHONES, PORTABLE MICROWAVE CAMPING STOVES... AND LASER DRILLS... THAT GUY MELLINGER WAS ONE RICH DUDE!
SO WHY'D THE OTHER TECH-TOWNIES WANT HIM DEAD?
BEATS ME! ALL TOWNIES ARE MAD... THEY HAVE NO CODE OF HONOR.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT - MIND YOU, THEY ARE RICH... I THINK ONE DAY WE SHOULD DO TECHVILLE... KILL ALL THE MEN AND SELL ALL THE WOMEN TO "SPACETOWN!"
WE GET TO KEEP THE PRETTY ONES...? HA! HA!
AND NOW, RAVAGE... I FEED!
AIEEEEEE


YOU'RE SURE YOU'VE TOLD ME EVERYTHING...? I'VE STUDIED THE TOWN LAWS... THEY ARE-- BIZARRE. BUT I THINK YOU HAVE A CHANCE.
WHAT'S TO KNOW...? MACHINE HEAD RUNS THE TOWN. HE WROTE THE LAWS AND HE'S THE ONLY JUDGE...!
YOU STILL SAY WE HAVE A CHANCE?
[redacted] AND TODY MELLINGER ...COME WITH US! YOU CAN SEE YOUR FRIEND LATER-- IF [redacted] LIVES!
HEY, BEEF-HEAD! YOU WANNA PLAY ROUGH...?
RAVAGE, NO! IF YOU WANT TO SAVE US... DO YOUR FIGHTING IN THE PIT!
SO... THE VIOLENT STRANGER. I HAVE HEARD ALL ABOUT YOU.
...BUT I WARN YOU, "BEAST-MAN"... YOU MUST DEFEAT ME WITH MY OWN LAWS-- OR I'LL RIP YOU TO PIECES!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, "YOUR HONOR"... YOU PLAY FAIR... AND SO WILL I!
WHY ARE MY CLIENTS BOUND? EVEN ACCORDING TO YOUR LAWS, THEY ARE FREE UNTIL JUDGMENT FALLS AGAINST THEM...!
THEY SOME-TIMES TRY AND ESCAPE WHEN SENTENCE IS PASSED... AIN'T THAT RIGHT, YOUR HONOR?
CORRECT, FRIEND KNIFE... AND WATCH YOURSELF, LAWYER... I DON'T LIKE YOUR TONE.

RIGHT... WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME! I HAD A LOAN ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN MELLINGER AND MYSELF...
LAW SAYS, IF HE DON'T PAY BEFORE THE DATE AGREED, THEN EVERY BIT OF TECH HE OWNS IS MINE!
AND BY TECHVILLE LAW... MY LAW... THAT INCLUDES ALL TECH POSSESSED BY HIS KIN... THAT MEANS YOU TWO LOSERS!
BE A PLEASURE, Y'ONOR!
THE DEFENSE NOW PUTS ITS CASE... IF YOU COULD JUST LOWER MY CLIENTS TO THE FLOOR...?
"ALL TECH" MEANS YOUR EYES, FERRA...! AND YOUR FISSION-POWERED HEART PUMP, TODY...!
AIN'T GONNA BE NO MELLINGERS ON MY RULING COUNCIL...!
SENTENCE TO BE CARRIED OUT NOW... PERFORM THE NECESSARY RITUAL, FRIEND KNIFE!
WH...? ALL RIGHT... GET ON WITH IT...
BUT YOU BETTER BE GOOD--

SURELY--IN A CASE REGARDING LIFE [redacted] DEATH--WE DON'T HAVE TO STICK TO THE EXACT LETTER OF THE LAW...
PERHAPS A LITTLE FLEXIBILITY...? A LITTLE MERCY...?
NOPE...! DON'T NEED MERCY, WHEN YOU GOT LAWS...!
I DEMAND THAT EVERY BIT OF TECH--INCLUDING "BIO-TECH" --IS DELIVERED TO ME...
MR. KNIFE...! DO IT NOW!
VERY WELL... WE MUST OBEY THE LAW...
FERRA, TOBY... STAND FIRM AND LET MACHINE HEAD HAVE WHAT IS DUE FROM YOUR BODIES.
OF COURSE... NOT A SINGLE DROP OF BLOOD, OR FLECK OF FLESH IS TO [redacted] LOST FROM MY CLIENTS...!
WHAT?!
THE LAW IS VERY SPECIFIC--ONLY THE DEFENDANT'S TECH IS CLAIMABLE... NOT THEIR FLESH OR BLOOD...
WE MUST STICK TO THE LAW... "YOUR HONOR".

ALSO-- I HAVE EVIDENCE THAT YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF MY CLIENT'S HUSBAND... I INTEND TO PROSECUTE YOU IN THIS PIT!
SO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT? IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE... ALL THREE OF YOU DIE NOW!
KRASH!
YOU FIRST, FURBALL!
I AIN'T USED TO BEING INTERRUPTED BY STRANGERS... NOW WHERE WAS I...?
AH, YES...
SAY GOODBYE TO SIGHT, LOSER...!
HUH?!
GRRROAWLLLL!

SNNNAAARRL
I SHOULD HAVE RIPPED YOUR UGLY CHASSIS TO SHREDS AS SOON AS I WALKED INTO TOWN!
YOU-- YOU STILL LIVE!?

YEAH...! I "STILL LIVE", DOZO!
WHOOSH!
WHICH IS MORE THAN YOU WILL!
I WILL... AAGK!
YOU HEAR THE CROWD? THE PEOPLE ARE SICK OF TYRANNY! YOUR TIME IS OVER, TIN MAN...! YOU'RE FINISHED!
YAAAY! DO IT, STRANGER... SMASH HIM!
NO...MERCY...! PLEASE, JUST--

JUST STAND THERE...
...WHILE I KILL YOU!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT, CYBORG!
WHY... WHY DON'T YOU FALL?
GGRRRWLLL SNNRRRLLL!
YOU DON'T LIKE MERCY... I WON'T GIVE YOU ANY!
NO! WAIT A MINUTE--! WE CAN-- AIARAGH!

THE CYBORG'S HEAD WON'T BRING YOUR HUSBAND BACK, FERRA... BUT IT WILL REMIND TOWNSFOLK ABOUT THE VALUES OF JUSTICE AND DEMOCRACY...!
SWEET HEAVEN! THE WAY YOU...! WHAT KIND OF...?
I THINK IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON, RAVAGE...
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN...!
AH, THAT'S THE WHOLE PROBLEM, LADY... HUMAN IS EXACTLY WHAT I AM!
IF A FEW MORE HUMANS ACTED LIKE ME, THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY MACHINE HEADS!
THAT WAS PRETTY DEPRESSING... I HOPE MANKIND GETS A LITTLE MORE REASONABLE--A LITTLE MORE INVENTIVE AS WE HEAD OUT INTO THE WILD...!
WELL, NEVER MIND... DID YOU FIGURE OUT A NAME FOR YOURSELF?
YEAH, I HAVE... IT'S FERRA...! SHE REALLY INSPIRED ME...
BY THE WAY... I DID MENTION THAT I'M FEMALE, DIDN'T I?
JOE BENNETT
GREG ADAMS

RANTS & RAVES

MATTHEW MORRA — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
JOEY CAVALIERI — GROUP EDITOR

c/o MARVEL COMICS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016
ALL LETTERS FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS. ALTHOUGH WE WILL GLADLY WITHHOLD THAT INFO UPON REQUEST.

Out Of My Head

Everybody assembled? Okay, here's our secret plan...

First, there's our Anniversary issues, all of which have really cool-looking covers! But nobody was content to have some kinda cover deal stand on its own, so we went all the way and decided to make issue #25 of the four original 2099 books double-sized! We pulled out the stops to present previews of upcoming characters and 2099 mags, to make our Anniversary something special!

Now, how do we keep your attention after that? We came up with an incredible event in one of our titles that'll be so daunting, so outrageous and far-reaching, that it'll pull the rug right out from under our universe, sending things reeling all over again! It's an event you've always wondered about, always wanted to see, but never figured we'd dare present it! From it, even more bizarre and strange occurrences will flow, touching every single 2099 book, and maybe even spinning off a mag or two (if we get our act together).

Curious? Of course you are...and so's the competition! Let's end this secret meeting now before somebody catches wise!

Dear 2099,

I have been reading the 2099 comics since the beginning. They are what got me interested in comics and I still say they're the best comics on the market or anywhere else for that matter. It's been a over a year now and if you don't mind I'd like to tell you what I like and, believe it or not, don't like about the characters.

Spider-Man... I like everything about him but I wouldn't mind seeing more of those great Peter David wisecracks.

Ravage... I'm glad to see he's finally gone back to his eco-warrior roots. It would be neat if his powers changed every once in a while. I'm curious about one thing—whatever happened to that garbage truck?

Doom... What's there not to like?

Punisher... I say again, what's there not to like?

X-Men... They have hardly any combat training, they're unorganized and their leader is losing his mind. If he doesn't get everyone killed, this book will be as good as the rest.

Hulk... Everyone says he doesn't have enough background or supporting cast to have his own series, but what do you expect? He's only been in four stories over the last year, most of which were devoted to action.

Metalscream (2099 UNLIMITED)... lose the dopey sidekick. And please, no more heroes with wires hanging out of their heads.

Lachryma (2099 UNLIMITED)... However you pronounce her name, I like her.

Andrew Whitworth
3287 Henry Knob Rd.
Clover, SC 29710

Lachryma is pronounced LACK-rim-ma. It's Latin for "tears." Everyone else seemed to like her too, Andy, so you'll see more of the vampiric vixen in an upcoming 2099 UNLIMITED.

Dear Joey, Matt and Lia,

The problem with setting fiction in the future is that the predictions always turn out to be false. Your distinguished competition has already blown up the planet Earth in the 30th century. They have to reverse that when the real 30th century arrives. As for your interpretation of the year 2099, are you assuming that no advancement would be made in alternate fuels within the span of 105 years? By the time the real year 2099 arrives, gasoline and polluting chemicals could very much be obsolete. We probably would be using solar power or a brand new renewable energy source. So much for Ravage. When the real year 2099 arrives poor Ravage will be updated so drastically that he won't even begin to resemble the 20th century version.

Problems in the 21st century won't even begin to match 20th century problems. It's arrogant to assume that since we have problems with pollution, capitalism, corporations and crime that future generations will have the same problems. If someone traveled back in time to the ancient Roman empire and gave them an Isaac Asimov book written in Latin, they'd toss it on the ground and call it trash. Likewise if someone traveled back in time from the real year 2099 and gave us all a Marvel comic from that era, even you guys'd toss it on the ground and call it trash. We are creatures of our era and we can't even begin to imagine what our descendants would be doing with our planet. Maybe the real year 2099 is a bit more optimistic than what you guys came up with.

We are creatures of our era. Why else would you populate the phony year 2099 with characters that are already established? The real year 2099 would be populated with mostly original super heroes. Right now Ravage is the only original hero to have his own series. The other original heroes are shoved off with one-shot stories in 2099 UNLIMITED before diving off into limbo. The real 2099 would not do such injustice. Do more original heroes! Most of them'll have to be reinterpreted when the real 2099 arrives, but that's a job for Tom DeFalco's future replacement. Good luck to whomever that person is.

You guys are doing a good job, even if most of your stories set in the phony 2099 will be rendered obsolete 105 years in the future. Don't worry. It happens to everyone who writes science fiction. Comes with the territory.

Steven Henry
(Address withheld by request)

Gee, Steve, with all that tossing trash on the ground, how can you say there won't be any pollution in 2099? Actually, 2099 has developed solar sources, as well as mag-lev cars. We are creatures of our era, so most of it is about projecting present human hopes and fears on the future. But even if we don't accurately predict what comes to pass, it's fun guessing.

Dear RAVAGE 2099,

Ravage is excellent! The book and the writers are extraordinary! Pat and Tony are so good I didn't even know Stan Lee was gone until four issues later. By the way:

1) Is Throwback dead?

2) Is Dethstryk dead?

For all of you who think Ravage is just another vigilante, he's not. After all he's been through, who could blame him if he was? Yet instead, he's a true hero.

Henry McGougal
6631 NW 2nd Ave.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

We're not spilling anything yet, Henry!

NEXT ISSUE

If you thought Ferra was a strange creature (the bat, not the girl), wait till you meet next issue's villain on the way to the Valley of the Beasts! And the Road Rats are back, too, in "Paradise Lost!"

Join the Brotherhood
Join the fight for a better tomorrow
Do your duty for DOOM and your country at the following locations.
http://www.8ung.at/comicasgard/home.htm
http://tod.kicks-ass.net/forum